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COLONEL GEORGE RUHLEN, DEPOT QUARTERMASER.



The United States Army has few men as efficient as Colonel Geo. Ruhlen, whose portrait is given herewith. One of the smallest men in stature, he has a capacity for business which during his service in San Francisco at the busiest time of the Philippines war made him the admiration of his fellow-officers and the envy of those less gifted. His record since assuming charge of the United States Quartermaster's Depot in Honolulu has won him encomiums throughout the United States.

Colonel Ruhlen entered West Point in 1868 and attained the rank of second lieutenant in the Seventeenth Infantry in 1872 and that of first lieutenant in 1876. He was made captain and assistant quartermaster in 1890 and major and quartermaster in January of this year. In the volunteer army during the Spanish war he was appointed major and chief quartermaster in June, 1898, and lieutenant colonel in August of the same year.

When men and munitions were matters of instant dispatch in San Francisco at the outbreak of the conflict in Luzon, Colonel Ruhlen proved himself a marvel. There was no organized transport service then and it was Ruhlen who blazed the way and made possible the present excellent state of affairs. He was highly complimented by the Washington authorities. When Honolulu loomed up as one of the most important of all the Army posts, with a brand new set of conditions and one that needed a strong executive head, Colonel Ruhlen was pitched on immediately as the one man fitted for the place.

He has been here now since August 29, 1898, and at present holds the positions of depot quartermaster and purchasing commissary, and is in general charge of all matters connected with transports at this port. His uniform courtesy and consideration for the comfort of men on the transports has gained for him the unanimous good-will and admiration of private and officer. In attending to the requisitions of the transport quartermasters Colonel Ruhlen invariably gives them the most important of all the Army posts, with a brand new set of conditions and one that needed a strong executive head, Colonel Ruhlen was pitched on immediately as the one man fitted for the place.

Colonel Ruhlen has had capable assistants who have facilitated his efforts. Edward H. O'Leary, personal clerk to the Colonel and chief clerk of the office, has been with him ten years, and is his right-hand man in every sense. He is the son of the late Colonel O'Leary of the Twenty-first United States Infantry and has been associated with Army routine and discipline all his life. He arrived in Honolulu when the quartermaster's depot was initiated here, on the transport Arizona.

E. A. Gartner is superintendent of construction; C. J. de Roo is property clerk; E. McPhetridge is transportation and purchasing clerk; C. J. Webster transportation agent, and Albert Berry is his assistant.

MR. GIRVIN EXPLAINS.

He Says His Chinese Relation Was That of Attorney to Client.

Editor Advertiser:—In yesterday's edition you stated that I was offered by certain Chinese an embassy to Washington in their behalf and assume that on my refusal of the offer that Wilcox got the job.

I would like to make a statement concerning any false impression such a statement would leave with the average reader. When the Newland's Resolution passed it was not the intention of a single member of either House that the clause referring to Chinese should go into immediate effect. Neither Senator Morgan, Senator Cullum nor Congressman Hitt, while here on the Commission expected that such a ruling would be made. The effect of the ruling was such as to cause very great hardship to our local Chinese, which aroused the sympathy of all our best thinking people. I drew up a brief and an argument on the matter and arranged to forward it to Washington, without fee or hope of reward. The Chinese Society, hearing of my action, asked me to address them, which I did. They then offered to pay my expenses to Washington if I would go before the Attorney General and endeavor to have him "modify" his ruling as he had done in a previous matter, overruling his own opinion. I accepted the offer of the Association, but the position of principal Special Agent in the United States Census Bureau being offered to me I informed the president of the Association and on consultation they decided it would be asking too great a sacrifice on my part if they held me to my agreement and excused me. The brief and argument went forward and were to be well presented. As Wilcox had left before that I am quite certain that he did not travel on money furnished by that Association. I have no means of knowing, but understand from rumors that Wilcox associated Mr. Cayless with him in an endeavor to press a certain Hawaiian claim to the Crown Lands. I can see no reason why the Chinese should be drawn into the Wilcox embroilment. I always found the upper class of Chinese in favor of Annexation, and the masses indifferent, all of them feeling that their condition would be bettered by being in a part of the United States. The rule of treatment many of them received on returning here from commercial or friendly visits to China was the first notice they had of the change in their status as residents of the United States of America. Faithfully yours,

JAS. W. GIRVIN.

DISINFECTANT TESTS.

Formalin and Sulphur Experiments at Judiciary Building.

Various tests have been made during the period of plague quarantine of the real disinfectant value of formaldehyde and sulphur, the former, in nearly every trial being unsuccessful. On the other hand, sulphur fumes have had the effect of destroying insects and cultures of plague bacilli.

On Monday last formaldehyde, or formalin as it is more commonly known, was subjected to a fair trial in the fumigating room located on the Ewa side of the Judiciary building. Culture tubes, some partly closed at the opening by cotton stoppers, others entirely unclosed; cigar boxes, containing live cockroaches, the lid of the box being perforated to allow the fumes free access to the inside, and other insects of various types, such as can easily be picked up around the Board of Health office, were placed in position where the best results would obtain. A strong vapor of formaldehyde was forced into the tightly closed room for an hour. Half an hour later the room was opened, and the various containers were brought out into the pure air; then the lid of the cigar box was raised, the cockroaches made a bold scramble for liberty, seemingly little the worse for the pre-supposed deadly fumes. As for the plague bacilli, they are said to have received a growth impetus.

Yesterday a further trial was given the fumes of formaldehyde without any material change in the experiment. Sulphur fumes, when forced into the same amount of room space, have so far acted with a degree of success, although in one or two instances the experiment with the fumes was as unsuccessful as the formaldehyde, notably in the fumigation of several rooms in the Weaver Block on South street.

Foreign Jury Called.

The foreign jury is to meet this morning at 9:30 for the consideration of criminal cases. Judge Perry issued an order to this effect yesterday. Among the cases on the calendar are those of L. Ahlo, unlawful possession of opium; Jim Shearn, assault with a dangerous weapon; Tam Tai and four others, riot and unlawful assembly; Lai Fu, assault and battery, and W. H. Marshall, libelous publication.

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